

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 59

November 2012

No. 9



## Calendar

|                 |  |                 |   |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Fri., Oct. 19   | Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO  | Fri., Nov. 9    | Film Society: <i>The Man Who Came to Dinner</i> , Town Hall, dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 5)       |
| Wed., Oct. 24   | No Citizens Assoc. meeting   |                 |   |
| Thurs., Oct. 25 | Happy Hour, Town Hall, 2–4 pm  | Sun., Nov. 11   | GP Authors Book Fair, Town Hall, 3–5 pm   |
| Sat., Oct. 27   | Spooky Woods, Porcupine Woods, Penn Place, 7 pm  | Mon., Nov. 12   | Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm  |
| Sun., Oct. 28   | Annual tree walk, beginning 1 pm, Penn Place (see p 3); Pumpkin carving, Penn Place, 1 to 3 pm (see p 2) | Tues., Nov. 13  | Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm                                       |
| Mon., Oct. 29   | Last weekly yard-waste pickup  | Thurs., Nov. 15 | Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm  |
| Wed., Oct. 31   | GPES Halloween Costume parade through town, 2-ish; Trick or Treat night                                  | Sat., Nov. 17   | GPNS Art & Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm; Last weekly Farmers Market at Penn Place for the year |
| Thurs., Nov. 1  | Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm   | Sun., Nov. 18   | GPNS Art & Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm  |
| Fri., Nov. 2    | Deadline to submit names for jobs list for next <i>Bugle</i> (see note, p 6)                             | Thurs., Nov. 22 | Happy Thanksgiving!   |
| Sun., Nov. 4    | GIVES Soup & Bread Supper, Town Hall, 5–7 pm (see p 2)   | Fri., Nov. 23   | Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> in Penn Place lobby   |
| Mon., Nov. 5    | Monthly yard-waste pickup  | Wed., Nov. 28   | Possible Citizens Assoc. meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm   |

## Inventing a Permit

With a Boy Scout troop in attendance, and with soft rain falling outside, the October Town Council meeting got underway.

Councilmember Tara Flynn noted that because there's "no coordination among people doing work in town," and sometimes no notification that work is going to happen, various citizens had their lives disrupted in various ways when a cable project recently started up on Kenilworth. The Council voted to ask some of the utilities in question to address them on the matter.

The Mayor pointed out that Garrett Park does in fact have an ordinance requiring permits for any work done in town, but we haven't done much with it. "We'd have to invent a permit."

The Scouts asked the town to link to GPCAN on its Web site, and the town was happy to oblige.

On the subject of the future of Cambria Park (dog park? skate park?), a Scout proposed a store in town whose profits would mainly go to the park project.

Before the Scouts left, they asked the Mayor what he meant when he said that the Council would be going into Executive Session. In the case of some legal, personnel, and contracting issues, he responded, sensitive information is involved, and a private meeting is a way to protect that information.

Marian Green was unanimously appointed to the Archives Committee.

The Mayor then said that while he wasn't complaining, he wondered why our revenue sharing from the county this time around is \$47,600—a lot more than the \$25,000 we'd estimated.

(continued next page)

(continued from previous page)

And then, as advertised, the Council went into Executive Session for a personnel matter, and your reporter slunk off into the night.

Margaret Soltan

## GIVES Soup & Bread Supper

Garrett Parkers, family and friends are invited to the GIVES Soup and Bread Supper, which will be held at the Town Hall on Sunday, November 4, from 5 to 7 pm. For the past 39 years, GIVES (Garrett Park Intercommunity Voluntary Experiment in Sharing) has collected donations to help relieve hunger locally and internationally. The need to feed, clothe, and provide shelter and training for so many is very high in difficult economic times.

In addition to enjoying the wonderful home-made soups and breads, we'll be asking for your thoughts as to how we can celebrate the 40th anniversary of GIVES in the coming year. Also, a representative of Thrive DC, one nonprofit that has benefitted from GIVES donations, has been invited to speak for five minutes and answer any of your questions. And we'll have a display of photos from Thrive DC clients, giving us an intimate perspective of how they see their city.

So please tell your friends and neighbors to RSVP by calling or e-mailing Karen Anderson, and tell her if you can bring either a soup or bread with butter to share with 10 to 12 people. In addition, GIVES is again asking those who attend to remember to bring along their own bowls and spoons and drinks. All proceeds collected will benefit Thrive DC and the American Friends Service Committee. This is a family-friendly event; please do bring your children, and invite your neighbors, too.

## GPES

Garrett Park Elementary is having a Book Campaign run by the school Education Foundation. Checks are accepted, made payable to Garrett Park Elementary School with "Library book donation" in the memo line. The recommended ratio of books per student is 20:1, and we only have a 15:1 ratio now—plus, 75 percent of the books in the library collection are 10 or more years old. The money is needed so that the library can order books with the most durable binding. Donations of any amount are deeply appreciated. You can mail your check to GPESEF, Box 131, Garrett Park, MD 20896, or send it in with a Garrett Park student, who will turn it into the office.

Now that we are in our permanent home, the Halloween Parade will be held on October 31 with the students wending their way through the south side of town. The parade is slated to start around 2 pm, and then the students will return to the school to have their parties. Be aware that some students may be collecting for UNICEF during their Trick or Treat outings.

Mary Moyer

## Citizens Association News

*Spooky Woods.* It's that time again! Each year the GPCA's Spooky Woods gets bigger and spookier. This year's annual event will kick off in Porcupine Woods at 7 pm on Saturday, October 27. Kids of all ages are invited to join us to share scares and laughs at this Garrett Park tradition. Volunteer ghouls are needed that day to set up and during the event to act in "haunted stations." Please contact Mario Grande at [mfgrande@aol.com](mailto:mfgrande@aol.com) before the event if you would like to volunteer or if you have an idea for a "spooky station."

*Pumpkin carving.* Please join us on Sunday, October 28, from 1 to 3 pm on the basketball court for the annual pumpkin carving contest. Snacks and refreshments will be provided for this event. We request that you please bring your own pumpkin and tools.

*Newcomers Reception.* The annual fall Newcomer's Reception will be scheduled soon. Watch the listserv for more information.

*Future meetings.* Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Mario Grande at [mfgrande@aol.com](mailto:mfgrande@aol.com) or send a note to Box 456.

*Annual dues.* The Citizens Association 2012 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

*Garrett Park listserv.* Our neighborhood is made up of people with a variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv, an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services. The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at [groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/) join.

*Questions or comments for the Citizens Association?* If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Mario Grande ([mfgrande@aol.com](mailto:mfgrande@aol.com)).

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

**Citizens Association Officers:**  
President: Mario Grande ([mfgrande@aol.com](mailto:mfgrande@aol.com))  
Vice-President: Todd Harris  
Treasurer: Michael Lutkenhouse  
Secretary: Lori Conlan

**Bugle staff:**  
**Editor:** Barbara Collier (Box 191, 942-3526, [bscollier@earthlink.net](mailto:bscollier@earthlink.net))  
**Reporters:** Margaret Soltan (Box 518, 929-8328, [margaret.soltan@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.soltan@gmail.com)), Mary Moyer (Box 98, 933-5764, [MoyOrgnmstr@aol.com](mailto:MoyOrgnmstr@aol.com))  
**Ads:** Mary Moyer (Box 98, 933-5764)

**Subscriptions:** Jane Salomon (Box 227)     **Distribution:** Peggy Pratt  
First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: [www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php). The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

*Halloween parade.* The Garrett Park Elementary School’s annual Halloween parade will be held on Wednesday, October 31, at 2 pm (there is no rain date). The route is the usual: left on Kenilworth, right on Oxford, right on Montrose, and back again to the school. Classroom parties will be from 2:30 to 3:30. Please call the school (301-929-2170) or the Town Office (301-933-7488) for more information.

*Leaf removal.* Autumn is fast upon us, and the leaves are starting to fall. As before, Bethke Landscaping will be removing leaves for the town, starting the week of October 15 and continuing until the end of the year. Each street will be cleared once every week, as early in the week as possible (rain will delay collections). Leaves should be placed in rows along the curb. Please remove sticks, trash, and other debris that could damage the machinery. Please do not shred the leaves or put out grass clippings. If you have any problems, call the Town Office.

*Yard-waste removal.* Remember, November through February yard waste will be collected the *first Monday* of each month *only*. That dependable harbinger of spring, weekly collection, will resume in March.

*Children and leaves.* Please warn your children not to play in the leaves piled along the street for removal. There is considerable risk of being hit by a car, even on Garrett Park’s quiet streets. If you are driving near a pile of leaves, treat it as you would a ball rolling into the street. Assume a child is nearby and likely to run into the street.

*Trash collection after holidays.* The following upcoming holidays are observed by our trash contractor: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. If a Monday is missed, recycling is collected on Tuesday, trash is collected on Thursday, and yard waste is collected on the next Monday. Missed Thursday trash will be collected on the following Monday.

Ted Pratt  
Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

Annual Tree Walk

The arboretum committee would like to welcome all residents to our fall tree walk, hosted by our Town Arborist, Phil Normandy. This annual event will take place October 28, beginning at 1 pm in front of Penn Place.

We would also like to thank Michael Specker for his chairmanship for the last two years. Michael has stepped down as chairman but remains a valued member of the committee. Veteran member Keith Mayhew was unanimously voted in as our new chairman.

Very shortly after assuming responsibility, Keith was called into action when the June 30 “derecho” storm swept through the D.C. area, causing widespread property destruction in our town, and left the area without power for many days. After working with town officials and homeowners to assess damage and create plans to mitigate future damage, Keith then focused on Pepco. Though our new chairman is not the demanding type, he used his powers of persuasion to get Pepco to focus attention on providing skillful maintenance of our arboretum.

As of this writing, there are multiple trucks working on pruning and reinforcing wires to help prevent future outages. This pruning, while necessary, is not to be confused with the expert pruning skills of Phil Normandy, who can be seen perched in the trees with his hand-sharpened Japanese pruning saw working on the structure and future health and beauty of our juvenile town trees.

Savvy town residents have been known to cajole Phil out of the trees with cookies and beer to assess the health of their own trees. The arboretum committee thinks it’s prudent for homeowners to take a proactive role in the care and maintenance of our trees, so please join us on our fall walk, as Phil’s knowledge on the subject is second to none, and his discourse is delightful and humorous.

Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:  
[www.garrettpark-md.gov](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov)

Put the #1 to work for you


It’s official. Jeremy Lichtenstein is Maryland’s number one RE/MAX® agent in 2007, 2006, 2004 and 2003.


In real estate, experience counts. Jeremy brings together satisfied buyers and sellers in your neighborhood—and has for over 20 years.

There is just One Name in Real Estate.

Jeremy

The One Name in Real Estate

 Jeremy Lichtenstein • RE/MAX Realty Services  
4825 Bethesda Avenue • Bethesda, Md. 20814  
[www.jeremyhomes.com](http://www.jeremyhomes.com) • 301.652.0400



Services for Seniors

Activities of Daily Living

- Bathing
- Lifting
- Personal Care & Hygiene
- Dressing
- Transferring

Support Services

- Companionship
- Meal Preparation
- Medication Reminder
- Physical Therapy
- Light Housekeeping
- Transportation to Appointments

What Makes ElderCaring Different?

- 2 hour minimum for services – most companies require 4 hours as a minimum
- All caregivers are professionally trained nursing assistants
- The owner of ElderCaring personally meets with you to discuss your needs
- All caregivers are fluent in English
- Personal choice in selection of every caregiver
- Licensed, Bonded, Insured
- 24 Hours Service – 7 Days a Week



Services now available in Northern Virginia

"The quality of care you would want for your parents."



MD • Call 301-949-0060  
[www.eldercaring2.com](http://www.eldercaring2.com)

VA • Call 703-956-3564  
[www.eldercaringofnova.com](http://www.eldercaringofnova.com)

Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?



## Reconsider Decorating Contest?

Let me begin by saying that I have always enjoyed putting up Christmas lights along my front walk. I moved here in 1965, so we're talking quite a long time! Nevertheless I was stunned when, two years ago, it was announced that our holiday lights and decorations would be part of a townwide contest; they would be judged. For me the holiday season is a time when we gather together to sing for joy, to pray for peace, to teach our children to think of others, and to spread a message of love. So, for me, to turn our holiday lights and decorations into a contest seems inappropriate and entirely out of keeping with the holiday spirit. Am I alone in thinking this way?

We already have several lively and fun competitive events in town, such as our 4th of July parade, our pumpkin carving contest, and, now, even a pooch parade! Isn't this enough? Do we *really* want to make Christmas competitive too?

Plus, there is a very important difference between this new decorating contest and the other competitions. For the parade, the pumpkin carving, and the pooch parade, as well as many other events in town, each family can decide for themselves if they want to participate, but for this new contest we are all automatically participating if we put up lights or a wreath. It is a townwide event involving all residences. Therefore, before this becomes an entrenched Garrett Park tradition, I think all residents should have a chance to think it over carefully and give their input.

I also want to mention three other negative results that may occur if we continue to view this as a competition.

1. Noise and light pollution—some neighbors have had trouble sleeping because of the glare and noise from the inflatable Santas, etc., and

## 2012 Pooch Parade Awards

A hearty “woof” of thanks to Tracy Liden, the Women’s Club, other organizers, judges, and all the entrants for making the September 15 Pooch Parade a fun event!

Awards given:

| Category                    | First place             | Second place              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Best dressed                | Dolly [Glidden-Boyle]   | Taku [Irons]              |
| Dog with the wiggliest butt | Shelby [Huston]         | Daisy [Campbell/Auerbach] |
| Best smile                  | Bela [Julia]            | Charlotte [Twedt]         |
| Most obedient               | Maybe [Reed]            | Casey [Morgan]            |
| Least obedient              | Coco [Quinn]            | Lily [Keller]             |
| Most mysterious heritage    | Sully [Gibbons]         | Tanner [Lisa]             |
| Dog/owner look-alike        | Leo [Eleanor]           | Apricot [Horan/Schulp]    |
| Best senior dog             | Alex [Mizoguchi]        | Will [Turner]             |
| Best pair                   | Taffy & Curly [Whitten] | Bela & Lina [Julia]       |
| Best vocal performance      | MukLuk [Moffett]        | Teddy [Del Priore]        |
| Softest fur                 | Luna [Jeff]             | Casey [Morgan]            |
| Best trick                  | Sebastian [Henley]      | Shelby [Huston]           |

of course we cannot be proud of the increase in our environmental footprint.

2. Intolerance—Even though holiday lights are everywhere nowadays, still there are many people who associate them with Christmas. It would be regrettable to offend any of our non-Christian residents or to put parents in the awkward position of having to explain to their children why their yard does not have lights.
3. Traffic—Think carefully about where this path may take us. Do we *really* want lines of cars snaking through town to see the show? I am *not* joking. This is already happening in some communities.

In conclusion, I want to say again that I have for many years enthusiastically put up Christmas lights and have enjoyed seeing the pretty lights of my neighbors. However to turn this Yuletide tradition into a “decorating contest” strikes me as totally unnecessary and even somewhat offensive. In writing this letter to my town which has been my home for 47 years, I sincerely hope that I have not offended the officers of the Women’s Club or anyone else. My sole intent is to generate some open thought and discussion on this topic. With goodwill to all my neighbors,

Martha Seigel

## Green Again

Our thanks this month go to Rob Freer and Sandy Walter of Charlottesville, Virginia, for springing for the green for our banner. This banner is in honor of their mother, Ruby Freer, who lived in Garrett Park from 1950 to 2000. We still have a family member who lives here in town, Ruby's grandson, J. C. Walter. We thank them for their generosity.

We need some new donations for next year. We're good for the winter months, but could use some green to help us welcome in spring 2013. If you would care to sponsor a green banner to go along with the blooming flowers in town, please make a check out to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer

**FOUNDING FARMERS**  
*...REAL FOOD & DRINK*

A Garrett Park  
Citizen-owned  
Restaurant!

Farm-to-table American fare, made daily,  
from scratch, with the finest ingredients!

**BREAKFAST**  
**DINNER**  
**WEEKEND BRUNCH**

**FOUNDING FARMERS**  
**POTOMAC**

**LUNCH**  
**AFTERNOON SOCIAL**

**12505 Park Potomac Avenue (270 & Montrose)**  
**301.340.TRUE [www.wearefoundingfarmers.com](http://www.wearefoundingfarmers.com)**

PFF loves GP! If you live at 10701 Keswick, 4605 Waverly, or 10801 Keswick, you've won a \$30 gift card! Email [dan@vsag.com](mailto:dan@vsag.com) to claim your prize and have it delivered to your house!

# Porcupine Woods, Garrett Park’s “Natural” Space

Porcupine Woods was acquired by the town in the mid-1970’s when a developer threatened to build townhouses on it. A subcommittee was formed to consider possible uses for the space and ultimately recommended to the Town Council that it be retained as a “quiet, natural place... to stroll and enjoy the seasonal changes... [with] no unnatural man-made objects.” This is what most of us who know anything about the history of Porcupine Woods remember. However, the specific recommendations made to achieve this objective were much more active and prescient than this simple statement suggests. (The Town Council unanimously agreed with the recommendations in the report of the Porcupine Woods subcommittee and the other Parks Committee subcommittees at its meeting of April 14, 1975.)

The 1975 subcommittee anticipated many of the major environmental preservation initiatives we are encouraged to adopt today; for example, it recommended removal of invasive species, replacing them with native plants; improving drainage of the creek bed, whose water ultimately ends up in the Bay; and actively managing the woods, which ensures the health of the ecosystem.

These recommendations are particularly relevant given the conditions that now exist in Porcupine Woods. Several factors—the ongoing battle against invasive species, especially bamboo; the devastating storm this past summer that brought down trees and left the understory littered with limbs and branches; and citizen concerns expressed in the 2009 Parks and Open Space Committee (POSCO) survey about erosion control and water management in Porcupine Woods—led POSCO to form a subcommittee to look at park management issues for this natural place and recommend actions the town should take.

One of the first decisions of the current Porcupine Woods subcommittee was to build on and update the recommendations from 1975. With this in mind the subcommittee is looking into such things as what can be done about invasive species control; establishing a more active “weed warrior” program for the woods; cutting down dead and hazardous trees; chipping limbs and branches to open the understory; removing some

trees to ensure the health and survival of more desirable native species; and consulting with area experts in streambed management to assess options for improving water flow in the creek.

Members of the subcommittee are Chris Keller, Frank O’Brinski, Cathy Rinzel, Ken Schwartz, and Suzanne Grefsheim, chair. The subcommittee is just beginning its work. An informal survey of homeowner/residents abutting Porcupine Woods is planned. A final report with recommendations should be ready by year’s end. Please feel free to contact subcommittee members if you have particular concerns or issues you would like addressed.

## November Film and Pot Luck

In keeping with the approaching holiday season, on November 9, the GP Film Society presents *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (1942; approved for all ages), a film about possibly the worst holiday houseguest ever. Based on the Moss Hart-George Kaufman play, this classic comedy stars Bette Davis, Monty Woolley, Ann Sheridan, Billie Burke, and Jimmy Durante.

Woolley plays Sheridan Whiteside, a famous radio personality traveling in Ohio on a lecture tour, who slips and falls on the steps of the home of a conservative businessman. On doctor’s orders he must not be moved. He and his entourage proceed to take over not only the house, but the lives of the occupants, creating havoc and mayhem.

The film will be shown at 8 pm. Admission is free to Film Society members, \$5 per person or \$10 per family for nonmembers.

Dinner will be a potluck supper. Bring a dish and eat free. If you don’t want to cook, pay \$10 a plate. Soda, beer, and wine will be sold at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5.

**Interested in advertising in the *Bugle*? Ads** cost only \$10 per inch of height, maximum 3 inches (all are one column width, about 3½ inches or 22 picas). If you are interested in running your ad for 10 issues (one full printing year), we can offer a cut rate of \$230 for a 3-inch ad. Call Mary if interested.

David Altar  
David.Altar1@gmail.com

(301) 602-2713

# COMP2DAY

Your computer ready, today or tomorrow

Fast, professional repairs & hardware upgrades. At home tutorials. Your computer likely as good as new, or better in most cases.

\$35/hr next day, \$45/hr same day. Free pick-up and return.

**Virus** removal; **memory** upgrades; restore **speed**; computer to **smartphone** assistance; **printer** help; custom computer builds for **gaming** or other needs. Can't start your computer? **Blue screen** at startup? Computer **slow**? Programs, devices, or features **don't work**? Need **wireless** capabilities? Call or email me and a solution will appear.

"Serving Garrett Park since 2010"



**9am-9pm**  
**Mon-Sat**  
**9am-7pm**  
**Sunday**  
**301-493-6217**  
**www.grosvenormarket.com**

Strathmore

Tuckerman

Grosvenor Metro

Rockville Pike

10401

Market

Grosvenor Place

Find us on Facebook

## Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The Museum Shop Around at the Strathmore Mansion will be held November 9 to 11. Items from some of the area's nicest museums will be on sale. The doors open at 10 am.
- ♪ Cal Baldwin was honored by the Bethany Beach Town Council for his outstanding contribution in establishing the Bethany Beach Conservation Area and Nature Center. There is now a Baldwin Trail that you can walk when you are visiting Bethany. Apparently Bethany Beach has a governing structure similar to ours—Town Councilmembers (unpaid) elected by land owners. Cal served for 10 years on that Town Council.
- ♪ Stop by the Town Office for a copy of a nice pamphlet: a Walking Tour of the History and Architecture of Garrett Park. Then walk around town to see our various architectural styles, from the Victorian to the Techbuilt.
- ♪ Received by the Town Office—a unique death notice for Tom Guernsey, who died October 3, 2012. He wrote that he made it to the other side safe and sound, and feels free of pain. A memorial will be held for Tom at the Town Hall sometime in the near future.
- ♪ For the next *Bugle*, please send names, ages, contact numbers, and jobs offered (snow shoveling, leaf raking, babysitting, etc.) to the Town Office by Friday, November 2: 301-933-7488, garrettpark2@comcast.net. Also contact the Town Office for referrals from the list.
- ♪ *Montgomery Journal*, Jan. 22, 1897: "A social club has been organized by the ladies here. Its initial meeting was held at Mrs. F.L. Browne's, the second at Mrs. Tasker's. Next Thursday Mrs. Hallaway will entertain the members. Cards, music and reading are the features of the afternoon, followed by refreshments."

## Letter from the Mayor

Our Town Administrator, Ted Pratt, has informed us that he wishes to retire at the end of June, 2013. He and his wife Page will be moving to a farm in Pennsylvania, where they are currently constructing a home. Ted has been a fixture in our town since he joined us 10 years ago. His extensive experience and considered guidance will be missed. The Town Council is beginning the process of looking for his replacement, and will do so first by reviewing what characteristics we want for a person in that position and by deciding how we should go about identifying candidates. If you have opinions or suggestions in these areas, please use the neighbors listserv to share them with all of us.

As we consider the steps to take to bring on a new manager of our town staff, we are also aware that we have no established personnel policies for that staff. We are now forming a small committee to help develop policies on such issues as pay, leave, overtime, health insurance, disability, retirement, full and part-time employees, discrimination, evaluations, hiring and firing, and the myriad of other issues that allow staff to have reasonable expectations about the terms of their employment. It also assures that the town will be fair and consistent in the treatment of its staff. If you have HR experience and would like to contribute your knowledge to this effort, please e-mail me at [peter.gpmayor@verizon.net](mailto:peter.gpmayor@verizon.net).

We have been concerned about how the utility companies that serve our town go about major repair, rehabilitation, and enhancement projects. They seldom inform the residents or town government in advance, do not generally coordinate with one another or the town, and often leave our roads, trees, and open spaces in a mess for weeks or months, only to have another utility follow behind with new damage just after

they have repaired and repaved the street. Section 719 of the Garrett Park Code of Ordinances requires advance notice of work by utilities and also requires a permit to excavate in public streets. We could enforce the ordinance strictly, but also have to balance the need for notice and control with the desire to have utilities respond quickly to emergencies and outages (which the ordinance does not recognize) and the value of working cooperatively with the utilities for the benefit of the town. We are asking representatives of Washington Gas, WSSC, Pepco, Verizon, and Comcast to come to the next Town Council meeting, November 12, to discuss these issues with the town. You may want to join the discussion at 7:30 pm.

As of the 2014 election, the town of Garrett Park will no longer be in State District 17. We will be represented beginning in 2015 by state delegates in District 18. We have invited the delegates from both our current and our new districts, our county representative (and County Council president) Roger Berliner, and county representative at large (and Garrett Park resident) Nancy Floreen to meet with the Town Council before its meeting on December 10. We encourage you to join us for dessert, an opportunity to meet these state legislators, and to ask them questions at 7:30 pm in Town Hall.

As a chief election judge for our precinct, I hope to see each and every one of you at the polls on November 6. There are important issues to be decided even beyond the presidential and congressional votes, including such questions as the Maryland Dream Act, marriage equality, and expanded gambling in Maryland. Let your voice be heard through your vote.

Peter Benjamin